

March 13, 2022

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, distinguished members of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary. My name is Daphne Donahue and I am a resident of Rocky Hill, the parent of biracial children and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker providing mental health treatment for children, adolescents, adults and families in the region.

I am writing **IN SUPPORT** of:

- [S.B. No. 387](#) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.
- [S.B. No. 392](#) AN ACT CONCERNING STATEMENTS MADE BY JUVENILES.

I am writing **IN STRONG OPPOSITION** to the following bills:

- [S.B. No. 365](#) AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS
- [S.B. No. 388](#): AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON OR A PERSON'S DWELLING, PLACE OF WORK OR MOTOR VEHICLE.
- [H.B. No. 5418](#) AN ACT REVISING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUTES AND INSURANCE STATUTES CONCERNING THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
- [H.B. No. 5417](#) AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE JUSTICE AND SERVICES AND FIREARMS BACKGROUND CHECKS.
- [S.B. No. 386](#) AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE JUVENILE DELINQUENCY LAWS OF THIS STATE.
- [S.B. No. 16](#) AN ACT ADDRESSING GUN VIOLENCE AND JUVENILE CRIME.

I live in Rocky Hill and over the past few months, I have seen politicians and people in the media using fear to push the mythical narrative of “high crime.” This narrative is unsupported by data and reports by public safety experts. I know that false narratives of crime and public safety are dangerous and cost lives.

If this bill passes, all communities will become less safe. Let's not forget the harm [CT Youth Prisons](#) have caused to our kids. Connecticut does not need more children with the life-long trauma that comes from incarceration. We don't want our kids to be killed by prisons! [We must learn from the killing of Kalief Browders by New York prisons.](#) He was arrested at the age of 16 after being accused of stealing a backpack. He was in prison for 3 years with no trial. He died by suicide in 2015 after he was released from Rikers Island.

I am asking you to oppose the bills listed above and **SUPPORT** [S.B. No. 392](#) and [S.B. No. 387](#) with the recommendations submitted by the [Connecticut Justice Alliance](#) and the [TOW Youth Justice Institute](#). I'm also asking the members of this committee to be accountable to my community by working with our communities, child advocates, the [Community First Coalition](#), and grassroots groups and dare to imagine a different world in which all children know freedom and feel secure regardless of their zip codes. Politicians who are using fear mongering to gain votes are a threat to our communities and they must be stopped.

Sincerely,

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